

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-15 have been examined and rejected. Claims 12-13 and 16-22 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 14-15 are cancelled.

Accordingly, claims 4-11 are all the claims pending in the present application.

The Examiner has rejected each of the pending claims on the following grounds:

- Claims 4-5 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,272,269 to Naum ("Naum") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,435,682 to Kaelin ("Kaelin") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,814,442 to Okuyama ("Okuyama");
- Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naum in view of Kaelin in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,554,463 to Hooker ("Hooker"); and
- Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naum in view of Kaelin.

For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY

This final Office Action was mailed after the filing of a Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 ("Response"). The Examiner appears to agree with Applicant's remarks in the Response and has issued the outstanding final Office Action to correct an error in the stated grounds of rejection. While the grounds of rejection in this Office Action are substantially the same as presented in the previous Office Action, the Examiner now contends that the previous identification of connector 44 as teaching the light guide panel recited in the rejected claims was in error. The Examiner now argues that homogenizing section 30 teaches the claimed light guide panel.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has improperly made this Office Action final. While the references relied on to reject the pending claims remain unchanged, the Examiner has now changed his position on these references. As the Examiner's burden in rejecting claims is greater than mere identification of art (*i.e.*, the Examiner must explain with particularity how the cited references teach or suggest each element of the rejected claims), Applicant believes the Examiner has improperly made the outstanding Office Action final. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the finality of the outstanding Office Action in any response to the this Office Action.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 4 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 4 and claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 10.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS

Claim 4 recites a projection display including "a body portion [that] comprises a plurality of stair portions each of which comprises a first surface parallel to a direction in which the light travels and a second surface reflection-processed, the first surface and the second surface forming a predetermined angle therebetween." In one exemplary embodiment, light entering into the body portion has an angle of $\pm 42^\circ$ with respect to the light traveling direction T. Specification at ¶ 65. Thus, the light incident on the first surface is almost totally reflected and incident to the light guide panel. Accordingly, the first surface must be parallel to the light traveling direction T to totally reflect the light incident thereon. The second surface forms an angle with the first surface. To reflect the light incident on the second surface, the second surface is reflection-processed.

Okuyama teaches a plurality of stair-shaped diffusing surfaces K. Figs. 1 and 2. However, Okuyama is silent with respect to the first surface parallel to a direction in which the light travels and the second surface forming an angle with the first surface and reflection-processed. Therefore, to reflect the light incident on the diffusing surface K, the diffusing surface K should be reflection-processed.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is patentable over the cited art. As claims 5-8 depend from claim 4, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-8 are patentable over the cited art.

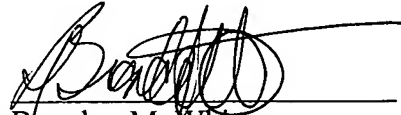
For reasons analogous to those presented above with respect to claim 4, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable over the cited art. As claims 10-11 depend from claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-11 are patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Brandon M. White
Registration No. 52,354

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 18, 2006